



# Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships

Fall 2013  
Issue 25

*Changing Lives One Degree at a Time*

## Bardwell Scholarships Celebrate Fall 2013 Graduates



### **My story, My journey, My gratitude!**

I recall always wanting to play teacher when I was a little girl. In retrospect, however, I am not sure if it was because I was the smartest of the group, or just plain bossy. Whatever the case might have been, I embedded the power of being educated in my mind at a very young age. I had some of the best elementary teachers like Mrs. McKee, Mrs. Jones, and Mrs. Yarbrough and even had great high school teachers, like Mrs. Hicks. Mrs. Hicks helped me understand the importance of learning to type, and I now type about 65-70 words a minute. I know someone might be thinking why is that important? Well, learning to type literally saved me from some of those long overnights writing papers at Smith College.

As I tell my story, I have to think about what got me to this place. I recall visiting Harold Washington College and reading its motto "Success Starts Here." This creed really stuck out to me because my goal was to be successful. Success is defined in different ways by different people. To me, though, it was about empowering myself to become educated beyond a high school education. I wanted a degree! Obtaining a degree was not only important for me, but as a single parent, I needed to be a role model for my son, Joell. As an alum, I can truly say HWC lived up to its motto. **Whether it was learning how to write papers in English 101 and** *My story, My journey, My gratitude! continued on page 2...*



### **Not Just A Scholarship**

Two years ago I wrote an article that appeared in the Spring 2011 edition of the Friends of the Bardwell Scholarships newsletter with the caption, "Impact of HWC on my Future Plans". In the article I discussed how desperate I was as an immigrant before I enrolled at HWC and how the school had played a significant role in preparing me for the next stage of life. I also paid glowing tribute to some members of the institution and the Bardwell Scholarship for their immense contribution toward my education. The commitment and legacy of Roger Bardwell has made it possible for me to once again open a new page in my life as I am about to graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance with a minor in Economics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. I owe the Bardwell family a great deal of indebtedness for their ongoing valuable contribution toward my education. **The Bardwell Scholarship is not just a scholarship, but also a family that provides love, mentorship, and inspiration.**

Though monetary contributions have been very significant from the Bardwell family toward my education, the love that the director of RBS has shown to me over the years, and continues to show, surpasses my understanding. Sometimes I prefer to call the organization a family rather than Bardwell Scholarships.

*Not Just A Scholarship continued on page 3...*

*My story, My journey, My gratitude! continued from page 1...*

**102 with professor Donyel Williams, understanding how children should develop and be protected in Health, Safety, and Nutrition with Professor Myra Cox, or being introduced to conditional statements, deductive reasoning, and logical arguments with Professor David Richardson, the road to my success began at Harold Washington College.** I am thankful and grateful to everyone who played a role in the implementation stage of my educational endeavor.

One of the most rewarding experiences of being at HWC was being introduced to Hedy Cohen. Our relationship developed by way of my mentor and friend, Barrington Edwards. Who was introduced to me by Professor Myra Cox. I was immediately drawn to Barrington's work ethic, intelligence, and overall persona. I knew this relationship would lead to something big. I did not know, however, that it would lead me to the lady that would literally help to change my life. Hedy Cohen, affectionately known as Momma Hedy, and the Bardwell Scholars played an integral role in the next phase of my educational venture. The mentoring I received from Hedy is, in my opinion, comparable to some of the best therapy in the world!!

Hedy is more than a mentor; she is a very special friend. There is something about the way she speaks to you that lets you know she genuinely cares. Hedy was my ear, my friend, and knew that at that moment in my life change was inevitable. Understanding many of the issues I faced, Hedy suggested that I apply to Smith College. **Hedy saw something in me that made her believe Smith was the right place for me. I can not express enough how right she was. Smith College was the changing point of my life.** I went to Smith with an ounce of hope, but a clear understanding that Smith "educates women of promise for lives of distinction." A college of and for the world, Smith links the power of liberal arts to excellence in research and scholarship, developing leaders for society's challenges." Today, I am proud to be recognized as a leader at my current place of employment, and look forward to what lies ahead for me. Thank you, Hedy, for introducing me to Smith College. Thank you Smith College for accepting me, Joell, and our ounce of hope.

After graduating from Smith College with my Bachelor of Arts in Education and Child Study, I came back to Chicago faced with the devastation of losing my father to cancer. I also found out that my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was very confused because I felt that life for me and Joell should be in a better place.

I had to take these situations head on, and remember the journeys I had just experienced at HWC and Smith. Those memories helped me get back and stay on track. There is a saying that "if you're going to pray then don't worry, but if you're going to worry then don't pray." I chose to pray and not worry. I knew that prayer, my faith in God, and the hope that I embedded in my heart would make everything okay. My mom's cancer went into remission, and it just reassured me that God, above all things, would never forsake me. Now, the question for me was how do you give back?

I graduate November 17, 2013, with my Master of Arts in Higher and Postsecondary Education from Argosy University, Chicago. I had the fortunate experience to learn about postsecondary education from some of the most compassionate and educated scholar practioner professionals in the world. As a result, I am working as an Admissions Representative where I have the opportunity to give back and help students realize that their educational goals can become a reality. I love working with students and look forward to my continued growth in the world of academia. The next phases of my career are unknown, but as long as it keeps me in the position to inspire others and pass on my ounce of hope, I am right where God intends for me to be.

Thank you, again, Hedy Cohen and the Bardwell Scholars, Harold Washington College, Smith College and Argosy University for being the beacons to my empowerment.

*Trina L. Coleman*  
*AA HWC 2008*  
*BA Smith College 2011*  
*MA Argosy College 2013*  
*Bardwell Scholar*



*Not Just A Scholarship continued from page 1...*

The director was there for me when none of my own family was present. I would like to take this platform to salute her for her presence during my citizenship swearing in ceremony. Mama Hedy, I will be forever grateful to you for being part of that historic event. The kind of love that you display to every member of the organization is very much appreciated, especially by those of us who are very far from our families. This is not just a scholarship that only provides funds to support needy adults like me but also shows love when you need it the most. Not only do I receive love, but also mentorship from the family.

Mentorship has been one of the greatest opportunities I have had since joining RBS. The director will always offer you assistance anytime you approach her for help. Being connected to people that offer you free assistance helped me build on my academic career. The mentorship relationship that I have enjoyed through the family has been crucial to my development. The volatility of the current economy makes mentorship a necessary tool that will help me differentiate myself from the competition. **Mentorship, in addition to inspiration, provides the necessary environment for progress.**

Inspiration from the Bardwell family helped me go through the challenges of getting a college degree. My first semester as I transferred to UIC was very challenging. Things were not running as smoothly as they did at the community college. The encouragement that I got from the Bardwell family helped me to overcome these challenges. That inspiration has propelled me into a new page in my life. The kindness, in addition to my zeal and determination, will help me overcome the next level of challenges beyond a college degree.

Because of your monetary contribution, love, mentorship, and inspiration there has been a change in the life of an individual whose vision and aspiration is to help transform society. **The acquisition of a degree is meaningless unless it leads to transformation of the acquirer and society in general.** I will be forever grateful to the entire Bardwell family especially those whose valuable contribution helped in shaping my life. The road ahead is rough but I promise to put your investment in me to help change society. Thank you once again for your valuable contribution.

*Francis Akwafo  
AA HWC 2011  
BS UIC 2013  
Bardwell Scholar*

## **EAT AT MILT'S and VOTE FOR BARDWELL SCHOLARS!!!**

Milt's BBQ, 3411 N. Clark, is hosting a contest from now through December 31, 2013; 18 worthy non-profit organizations are in competition for a \$5000 prize. Each time you eat at Milt's you can vote for RBS; the organization with the most votes wins!

**So go now! Eat at Milt's and vote for RBS!!!**

**Reservations recommended....**

**773-661-6384**

# A Retreat on Writing, Humanity, Belonging, & Change

August surprised me with an e-mail. Having never thought of myself as a writer, but willing to vaguely think of myself as such, I applied to the first national retreat for undocumented writers, UndocuWriting-- on just a 24 hour notice. CultureStrike, an organization pushing to centralize the role of undocumented artists in social justice efforts, and more explicitly, in the current immigration movement/debate, organized this effort. After a few weeks of much anticipation, I received the admissions committee decision. Acknowledging that I cobbled the application in just one day and that this national effort called for a competitive applicant pool, I opened the e-mail with low hopes. It read: "CultureStrike is pleased to inform you that you have been selected to participate in our first ever 'UndocuWriting Retreat.'"

For a week, I kept myself tucked away thirty steps from a brown-sand shore that decorates Sausalito, California, next to the Golden Gate Bridge where I shared space with ten of the most vivacious and limpid, angry and compassionate clearheaded visionaries and undocumented activist-writers. Having quit all my duties in Chicago for a week and done nothing but eat a ton and write a ton, we engaged in story telling and wrote on many questions around the construction of our identities and what it meant to be women, men, transgender, queer, heterosexual, undocumented, from multiple original geographies, and speaking in different tongues. We thought about the meaning of "home" and how for immigrants, everywhere and nowhere become home and how even the simplest ice-breaker question of 'where are you from?' can trigger so much. Yet, a common realization liberated us. Categories are just that: categories. Although we might heavily identify with the labels society imposes on us, we are all blood-bone-flesh, human. We concluded by refusing to let anyone or any word define us and by acknowledging that despite our itinerant history, home is where we are, our bodies.

As we exposed more of ourselves, including the family drama no one likes to talk about, our delightful engagement in socially punishable romantic relationships, and struggles in balancing work and family demands, our facilitator adjudicated with a simple question: "How could you, or anyone, be called 'illegal' if you guys are living such complex lives, like anyone else!?" This remains the question.

The label "writer" never quite felt mine...that's because despite lauding our nation as a welcoming and inclusive hub for immigrants, our dominant dialogue, book stores, schools, and even personal relationships still exclude and delegitimize our voices. With my journal in hand, I hopped on the plain back to Chicago, and as it took off, so did my ideas. I am starting a city-wide writing circle for undocumented people, who don't think of themselves as writers. This will be a space where we can think, share, connect, and write about questions that are pressing to us, and even the ones that are not. The purpose is to develop a community, develop our craft as writers, and grant each other the legitimacy as writers that we get from nowhere else.

The retreat culminated in a couple of projects: 1) Connecting with authors in CultureStrike's network, including Junot Diaz, Sandra Cisneros, Alice Walker and others to collaborate and become our mentors; 2) Publishing an anthology of the work produced at the retreat; 3) Touring and performing our pieces.

Onward and forward.

*Yunuen Rodriguez*

*AA HW 2008*

*BA Beloit College 2012*

*Bardwell Scholarships Board Member*

*Bardwell Scholar*



*Brother and sister, Yunuen Rodriguez and Hugo Rodriguez*

# TOP TEN REASONS TO SUPPORT ROGER BARDWELL SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Over 95% of our donations go directly to tuition and college support.
2. RBS supports seriously motivated and determined students who are unable to receive other scholarships or grant support.
3. We are a grassroots organization dedicated to the belief that the process of education is life changing.
4. RBS offers complimentary tools for success, hope, resources, funds and mentoring, needed to navigate the often difficult college transfer and funding process.
5. Donations from private individuals comprise 100% of our budget.
6. Our organization is a pipeline into higher education where over 90% of our students achieve an associates degree and go on to a four year institution.
7. From helping to establish a stock market, to leading city-wide writing circles, to serving as social workers and teachers, the personal attention and care our students receive significantly impact our world, inside and outside Chicago.
8. Our board is representative of those who fund it and those who receive the scholarships, joining together to direct the organization.
9. The program builds a strong network of social and human capital between funders and students, useful for fruitful endeavors.
10. Our scholars represent a plethora of faiths, colors, sexualities, ages, countries of origin, bodily and learning abilities, and citizenship and marital status.



# RBS First Annual Family Fun Picnic

On August 3, 2013, RBS held its First Annual Family Fun Picnic. On this beautiful day, RBS members past and present, were able to unite in a day filled with food, fun and, of course, fellowship. Members were able to meet, greet and engage, not just with each other, but also the families that continue to support us all. It has been said that food is the heart of the family, and there was plenty of heart which caused us all to bare our souls with each other. I say this because the love and support that was shared by all could only come from one's soul. Those in attendance shared experiences with one another in regards to, not just their accomplishments as a result of being a member of RBS, but how they weathered many storms that crossed their paths on the road to achieving their goals.

For those who were unable to attend, your presence was missed. I look forward to next year's event as this can only grow. I was told when I became a member of this entity that RBS was a family and if the First Annual Family Fun Picnic is any indication, then we definitely are.

*Kevin Pleasant*  
*HWC student*  
*Bardwell Scholar*



*RBS Lawana Loving (middle) with her children DeShawn and Arieonna*



*RBS Cassandra Bunyard*



*RBS Board Members Fran Girard and Tony Foster*



*RBS Board Member Johnny Phan with Betty Fang*



*RBS Cesar Rojas with his wife, Yvonne*



*RBS Board Member Yunuen Rodriguez with RBS Sunday Joseph*



*(Back) Gale Washington, Reggie Jackson, Kevin Pleasant, Leonetta Clark (Middle) Hedy Cohen, Joann Washington, Kimberly Lucas, Fran Girard (Front) Pearl, Andre Wade*

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with  
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Scholarship  
on  
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“Like” us and  
get all the  
updates!

## A Special Thank You to our Many Supporters

Bardwell Scholarships has had an extraordinary year, due in large part to generous individual contributions. We are both proud and humbled that our scholarship is 100% donor funded. Much gratitude is extended to the individuals mentioned below, as well as our many supporters who read our literature, view our website, and talk with pride to others about the important work we are doing. It takes all of us to make this happen.

As each contribution is of significance, we list them alphabetically and equally.

We acknowledge and thank these individuals who have contributed financially to Bardwell Scholarships NFP, November, 2012-October, 2013.

Elaine/Ray Asher

Megan Bailey

Sid Bardwell

Mary Jo Barrett and Dennis O'Keefe

Debby Bates

Robin and Peter Baugher

Rona Bezman

Rachel and Fredrick Breivald

Bonnie and Leo Dohonge

Mary Eimers

Judy Elkayam

Shari and Mark Enfield

Frank and Kay Fennell

Bonnie Fields

Allan Freiman

Sue Ginsburg

Ellen Goldberg

Bill and Eileen Halperin

Bob Harris and Susan Primer

Carol Henes

Martha Jantho

James Johnson

Jacki Kimel

George Kreick

Donald Laackman

Raissa Landor

Hal and Elissa Leider

Charles McSweeney

Roy and Sue Muir

Esther Nitzarim

Robin Raymond

Tom Rebori

Bonnie Roter

Lois and John Sachs

Sangha Saha

Gail Sanders

Betty Sandlow

Andrea Scaggs

Caroline Shoenberger

Susan Sidell

Donna Smith

Margo Stern

Octavian Stinga

Dave Studenmund and Joan Habinek

Shelley Sutherland

Barb and Eric Udren

Betsy Uzzell

Shirlene Ward

Irwin (Foxy) Williger

Ann Yoshida



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## Investing in Transformation

As of a few years ago, the thought of an undocumented student of color from a community college attending the top two philosophy programs in the country, never crossed my mind. This summer, it happened. Pennsylvania State and Rutgers Universities accepted me into their competitive philosophy fellowships. The adjectives empowering and transformative fall short in describing this experience, as I would stay up late engaging in heated discussions about our experiences and thoughts around the current relevance of anarchy, complexities of the female body experience, tailored medicine, among other topics rarely discussed in homogenous and cautious educational spaces.

The people I met with came from colorful journeys and they complemented my experience at my current college, Shimer, so much, as I built meaningful relationships with differently abled individuals, self-identified anarchists, and fellow undocumented students who challenged my very own conceptions of identity, belonging, and family.

Graduating from Harold Washington and transferring to Shimer College in 2012, with the help of Hedy Cohen and the Roger Bardwell Scholarship, allowed me to now savor the fruits from the tree of knowledge planted on the soil of a private four year institution. Upon transferring to Shimer, I have only come closer to quenching my intellectual thirst for seminal philosophical texts. The background experience that I gained in attending a Great Books college prior to applying to these fellowships only made me a more competitive applicant. The support of Hedy and the RBS has taught me that any kind of investment in education will pay the best interest in the future.

*Hugo Rodriguez  
AA HWC 2012  
Shimer College Student  
Bardwell Scholar*

## Milt's BBQ Partners with Bardwell Scholarships!!!

Milt's BBQ for the Perplexed ([www.miltsbbq.com](http://www.miltsbbq.com)), 3411 N. Broadway St., 60657, is a restaurant with a mission. First, it is a friendly, neighborhood restaurant which serves great bbq, wonderful fries including sweet potato fries, great salmon, and vegetarian choices. Next, it functions as a neighborhood meeting place in Lakeview, encouraging conversation between people and presenting organized topics of interest within the community. Third, all food at Milt's is Kosher! And, most importantly, as it states on Milt's website...

**100% OF ALL PROFITS will be donated to charity.**

On October 9, Ariel Pollock Star from Milt's came to visit Bardwell Scholars at HWC, first meeting with Director Hedy Cohen, then talking with a group of RBS who had gathered to meet her. The Bardwell Scholars told Ariel a bit about their lives and their struggles to become educated and how RBS had assisted them. Their powerful stories convinced Ariel and the decision makers at Milt's to support RBS.

**Consequently, we are proud to announce that 100% of all profits from Milt's for December will be donated to Bardwell Scholarships!**

**RBS is proud and humbled that Milt's has generously decided to honor our mission and work in this way.**



*(back) Tonja Girtten, Hugo Rodriguez, Alba Orizaba, Ariel Pollock Star (front) Kevin Pleasant, Trina Coleman, Cassandra Bunyard*

# Profit Sharing at Ten Thousand Villages

Due to the hard work and persistence of Hedy and the Bardwell Board, Roger Bardwell Scholarships was able to become a Not-For-Profit organization last year. This opened the doors for many new possibilities for us. Among those possibilities, RBS was able to partner for a day with Ten Thousand Villages. (<http://www.tenthousandvillages.com>) Ten Thousand Villages, is a fair trade retailer which promotes job opportunities in small villages all over the world and pays workers livable wages for their hand-crafted goods, contrary to wages corporations would pay in sweat shops. On a regular basis, Ten Thousand Villages holds profit sharing days with non-for-profit organizations.

On September 29, 2013, RBS proudly took advantage of this considerate and charitable opportunity. TTV generously donated 15% of their total sales on that day to RBS; this totaled about \$500 in four hours. This is equivalent to almost 50% of a student's tuition for one term at Harold Washington College!

Scholars and board members were able to meet, mingle and promote Roger Bardwell Scholarships to walk-in customers as well as their own families. One can expect to find handmade crafts from all over the world; items include jewelry, mirrors, rugs, dishes, and much more. I personally bought a CD that contains songs from all over Latin America. I recall hearing a customer say that she was indecisive about buying an art piece but after talking to RBS scholars about how the scholarship helped them in their endeavors, she bought it without giving it a second thought. Friends and family of RBS also made a great contribution to the success of the event for our wonderful organization. Personally, I invited my brother and his wife, who were delighted to lend a helping hand in RBS's efforts to continue to fund education for needy, hard-working students.

**Alba Orizaba**  
AA HWC 2012  
NEIU student  
Bardwell Scholar

**Heriberto Bustos**  
AA HWC 2012  
NEIU student  
Bardwell Scholar



*(L-R) Hugo Rodriguez, Johnny Phan, and Hedy Cohen outside Ten Thousand Villages, 719 Main Street, Evanston, 60202.*



*Willow Smith and store manager Doug Horst generously donate their time to encourage fundraising.*



*(L-R) Shoppers and RBS Supporters Carol Henes, Stephanie Mathless, Susan Sidell*



*RBS Supporter and shopper Gary Shovers*



*RBS Supporters Francisco Bustos and Maria Hernandez Bustos with RBS Heriberto Bustos*



*(L-R) RBS Leonetta Clark, Heriberto Bustos, and Alba Orizaba*

# EAT AT MILT'S BBQ for the PERPLEXED

Call 773-661-6384  
for reservations

# Donate Online!

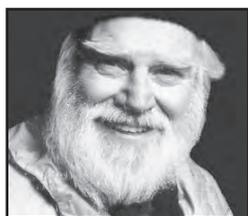
## VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

*[www.rogerbardwellscholarship.org](http://www.rogerbardwellscholarship.org)*

Contributions, which are deductible to the extent the law allows, are always appreciated and enable us to continue this important work. Please ask your employer if they offer matching funds or corporate contributions to nonprofit organizations.

*(The Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund is a registered 501(C)3 tax exempt organization)*

Contributions to the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund may be made by check and sent to:



**Bardwell Scholarship NFP**

**1204 Monroe**

**Evanston, IL 60202**

**or**

**donate on our website**



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO

**Harold Washington**

Education that Works

For further information, or if you know someone who might be a candidate for a Bardwell Scholarship, please contact Hedy Cohen:

Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship Fund, Harold Washington College

30 E. Lake St., Room 1139 Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 553-3049

*[www.rogerbardwellscholarship.org](http://www.rogerbardwellscholarship.org)*

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